



Greater and Lesser Sins

By Harris Kakoulides

Defining Sin

Sin is defined according to scripture as the breaking of God's Law , unrighteousness and the admission of doing what is right. The Greek words for sin used in the New Testament is hamartano , hamartema, hamartia which speaks of missing the mark, which is Holiness.

1John 3:4 Whosoever commits sin transgress also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.
(NKJV)

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.
(NKJV)

All sins are against the same author of the Law aka God so if one is guilty of one, one is guilty of them all.

Although all sins are against God who gave us the law, and that is what James means when he states

(James 2:10-11) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. (NKJV)

Possibly having in mind

Deuteronomy 27:26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

Greater and Lesser Sins

Not all sins go on the same level or are judge according to the same level. Jesus spoke of Pilate as having lesser degree of sin compare to the one who turned him in.

John 19:11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."
(NKJV)

James speaks of taking oaths is a sin above any of the previous sins he mention before.

James 5:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by

earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

(NKJV)

John in his epistle speaks of sins that lead to death while there are others that don't lead to death

1John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

(NKJV)

These sins may be in reference to sins that can cause you to die whether spiritually or physically, we see of two sins that caused Christians to die physical death are lying to the Holy Spirit and taking the Lord's Supper in a unworthy matter.

(Acts 5:1-11) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear

came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. (NKJV)

(1 Corinthians 11:27-30) Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. (NKJV)

But one of the sins that can kill us spiritually could be sexual sins for they sin against the body and war against the soul

(1 Corinthians 6:18) Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. (NKJV)

(1 Peter 2:11) Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (NKJV)

We hear of Jesus mentioning of a sin that has no forgiveness which blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, which was done by some of the Pharisees when they attributed Jesus miracles which was done by the Holy Spirit to the working of Satan.

Matthew 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

(Matthew 12:31-32) "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. (NKJV)

(Mark 3:28-30) "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; "but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" -- because they said, "He has an unclean spirit." (NKJV)

This sin according to the Greek was done by the Pharisees more than once, which New Testament Translations like the William gets it right.

Mark 3:30 Williams He said so, because they kept saying, "He is under the spell of a foul spirit."

And then we see there is sin that is done without our knowing we are sinning against God which will be punished but to lesser degree than those that are done with our knowledge.

Luke 12:46-48 NKJV the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. (47) And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. (48) But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.